

In this issue:

Homicide Unit reorganizes

Community prosecutors work in East Patrol Division

Retiree honors his fallen partner

Whatever Happened to?: E.O.C. 82

Events

March 12
Tip A Cop for Special Olympics

March 24
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

The Mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, in partnership with the community, is to protect life and property while reducing fear and disorder.

Vision

The KCPD is a premier police agency with a national reputation for excellence that provides innovative and equitable police service to its community through a highly motivated and engaged workforce.

The Informant is a publication of KCPD's Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department
March 2011

Homicide Unit reorganizes

In the wake of a 42 percent in-year clearance rate of 2010 murders, the Homicide Unit is changing the way it does business.

Four squads instead of three will now work new murder cases with more time for follow-up investigation, and commanders are looking for ways to incentivize the position of homicide detective.

"I can't think of any other business or department element that is operating the same way it did 20 years ago like the Homicide Unit," said Major Randall Hundley, commander of the Violent Crimes Division.

For those 20 years, three squads of seven detectives and one sergeant took turns working 28-day rotations on Murder Squad, day shift and evening shift. The Murder Squad investigated all new homicides during their 28-day rotation. If a large number of homicides happen during that period, their work stacked up. On the day shift, detectives work "the floor," responding to a phone that rings "nonstop," according to Homicide Unit Captain



Detectives with Homicide Squad 1020 investigated a murder at 25th and Poplar on Feb. 17

Floyd Mitchell. "Attention is not paid to the homicides we just got," Captain Mitchell said.

After talking with detectives, former Homicide commanders and peer cities, Captain Mitchell said the solution is to create a fourth homicide squad. This 990 Squad will take one detective from each of the existing squads and several

from the Cold Case Homicide Squad. The remaining detectives on that squad will be merged with four detectives from the Cold Case Sex Crimes Squad to form a broader Cold Case Violent Crimes Squad.

Murder Squad rotations will be reduced to 14 days, followed by another 14-day period in which detectives do nothing but work the cases that occurred in their previous rotation. Squads will then move on to day and evening shifts.

"The key is providing detectives the time they need to

Continued on p. 3

Prosecutors track East Patrol offenders

A whole sector of East Patrol Division officers packed a Municipal Court room in February to get a persistent offender behind bars.

"We wanted to make an impact on the judge," said Monica Smith, one of two community prosecutors assigned to East Patrol as part of a grant-funded pilot project with the Municipal Prosecutor's office. "We wanted to show the defendant is affecting the quality of life of people who live and work in that neighborhood."

"Who better to come to court than the people who see him everyday – the officers?" said Lindsay Arbuthnot, the other community prosecutor.

The community prosecutor program has been operating since October 2010. Five months in, Captain Bob Zimmerman said it's getting results.

"They've really helped in a situation that's been mostly frustrating for a lot of officers," he said. "...There was never an outlet before if you had a problem house or a



Community prosecutors Lindsay Arbuthnot and Monica Smith met with East Patrol Division officers during their March 9 roll call. They're part of a pilot project that targets persistent offenders.

Continued on p. 2

Retired officer honors fallen former partner

Patrolman Hugh Butler was the first of six Kansas City Missouri Police officers to die in 1968.

He was shot to death responding to a disturbance at a tavern at 35th and Troost. His partner that night, Retired Officer Ed Donahue, would make sure Officer Butler was never forgotten.

"That was the first night we rode together," Donahue said of Feb. 2, 1968. "Hugh had just transferred to our unit, and my regular partner was off that night."

Donahue and Butler were assigned to a tactical unit that focused on high-crime areas. They had been on surveillance the night of Feb. 2 when a call came out about an armed man at the Brass Rail at 3502 Troost. He already had fired several shots inside. When Officers Donahue and Butler entered, they were wearing plain clothes because of their previous assignment but announced themselves as officers. The suspect in the bar turned on them and fired several rounds, first striking Donahue in the wrist, then Butler. The officers returned fire and injured the sus-



Retired Officer Ed Donahue donated a bench on the Trail of Heroes in memory of Patrolman Hugh Butler, who was killed in 1968.

pect, but he survived. Another officer on the sidewalk mistook Officer Butler for the shooter, and he also shot him. Officer Butler was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

Butler had been on the department for four years at the time of the incident and had previously spent three years in the United States Army. He was 30 years old at the time of his death. Donahue, who retired from KCPD in 1996 with 28 total years of service, was a pall-bearer at Butler's funeral.

"I wish I could have done more at the time," he said.

In 2011, he did. Donahue donated \$500 to purchase a bench in Hugh Butler's memory on the Trail of Heroes, which is located on the campus of the Kansas City Regional Police Academy and Shoal Creek Patrol Division. The 1.5-mile mulch trail honors fallen department members. Donahue said he'd seen the trail at the November 2007 Academy dedication and thought it was a nice idea and a good way to honor his former partner.

The dedication of the bench was planned for the 43rd anniversary of Officer Butler's death

on Feb. 2, 2011, but a blizzard had moved through and made the trail impassable. The bench was dedicated a week later with commanders of the Patrol Bureau, Building Operations and the Kansas City Police Historical Society in attendance.

If you'd like to sponsor a bench in honor of any fallen KCPD officers, go to www.trailofheroes.com for more information.

News in Brief

3rd German police intern comes to KCPD

Officer Thomas Grunert with the Berlin, Germany, Police Department is the third Berliner to intern with KCPD in as many years. Officer Grunert is studying to be promoted in his department, where he is assigned to the Riot Police (similar to KCPD's Tactical Teams). Officer



Grunert is staying with Officer Sam Spencer of East Patrol Division and his family. He'll ride along during the evening shifts of the inner-city stations, train with the Tactical Teams, and check out sections in the Special Operations Division like Helicopter and Canine. Grunert said this is his fourth trip to the United States but his first to Kansas City.

PROSECUTORS, CONT. FROM P. 1

person you're constantly taking to jail. The bad guy gets probation in one courtroom and then goes on to another."

But now officers are turning information on these habitual offenders over to Arbuthnot and Smith.

"With the 1,000 to 2,000 cases that hit Municipal Court every day, prosecutors working at that pace don't have the time to concentrate on the cases they need to," Assistant City Attorney Beth Murano said. "The idea of community prosecutors is to be able to let the police and community bring the knowledge they have so the prosecutor can have a strategy for prosecution and not just go through the motions."

Smith and Arbuthnot are monitoring the cases of 38 people, all persistent offenders. Twenty of them are in the high-crime target areas of 27th and Prospect and Independence and Benton. Officers picked 10 of their most repeat offenders at each location and told Smith and Arbuthnot about them. Smith and Arbuthnot ask judges to ban the offenders from re-entering the target areas as a condition of their probation. If they're spotted there again, they can get more than 180 days in jail.

"We monitor their cases, and we're there when they go to court," Smith said.

A prostitute who repeatedly was arrested at Independence Avenue and Benton presented a continual problem for officers, who tried to get her help

Continued on p. 3

—HOMICIDE UNIT, CONT. FROM P. 1

follow up,” Captain Mitchell said. “Continual follow-up on cases is what we’ve been lacking the most.”

He said detectives each need to be provided with their own department cell phones and cars to do their jobs well. Currently, they share both, which shocked members of the Board of Police Commissioners.

“That’s ridiculous,” member Lisa Pelofsky said.

Commanders also are trying to come up with other ways to make Homicide Unit detective a desirous position.

“Our ability to attract and retain folks has hurt our ability to solve crimes,” Captain Mitchell said. “Getting called out at night for 28 days and missing family events, it’s a lot of sacrifice.”

Some of the ideas Mitchell and Hundley proffered at the Feb. 24 Board meeting included the ability for Homicide detectives to earn compensation time and to automatically be promoted to the rank of Master Detective. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 99 President Sergeant Brad Dumit said he was concerned the promotion would be unfair to other detectives and suggested the possibility of incentive pay instead.

Mayor Mark Funkhouser said the department needs to encourage its best people to be homicide detectives.

“Make it an elite unit that everyone wants to be in,” he said.

Chief James Corwin defended the work of current homicide detectives and said he was proud of their work and their sacrifice.

“I highly recommend Board members take a ride-along on a homicide investigation, starting with the phone call in the middle of the night,” he said.

Clearance rates are up so far in 2011. As of press time, out of 12 homicides, seven have been cleared and five are at the prosecutor’s office awaiting charges. The unit also has cleared six homicides from previous years in 2011.

— PROSECUTORS, CONT. FROM P. 2

through social services. She rejected their efforts and kept breaking the law, so the community prosecutors got her a two-year jail sentence, nearly unheard of in Municipal Court, Captain Zimmerman said.

In addition to the police, Smith and Arbuthnot collaborate with neighborhood associations and residents. They work out of the Vineyard Neighborhood Association’s offices and are involved in a number of area task forces.

They’ve also made it a point to get to know EPD officers by regularly attending roll calls, sectors-as-teams meetings and going on ride-alongs. The officers and prosecutors keep each other apprised of what’s going on with their targeted areas and offenders.

Murano said she would like to expand the community prosecutor program into the Central Patrol Division and beyond and is looking for ways to fund it.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO, CONT. FROM P. 4



Celebrating their 50th anniversary of joining the KCPD are, from left: James Aliff, Paul Martz and Matthew Jordan.

the bank. When Martz responded, the man fired a gun at him, so Martz fired back, striking the suspect in the arm. Only after the incident did Martz learn the suspect had no ammunition in the gun.

“I heard him pull the trigger, and I thought he’d fired,” Martz said.

The suspect recovered, and Martz was unhurt.

Jordan said he had too many street stories to narrow it down to one great one.

“I was a district man all my life,” he said. “I did everything.”

Aliff remembered seeing a plane crash at the Downtown Airport. He stopped traffic on the Broadway Bridge for that. He also recalls responding to a call at a hotel in which a woman was lying dead in her bed. Her husband told Aliff the woman had fallen out of bed dead the night before, but he figured since it was 1 a.m. no one could do anything about it, so he put her body back in the bed and slept next to her until morning.

All remember the riots that struck Kansas City in 1968.

“Everything was different after the riots,” Aliff said.

Martz concurred.

“We were much more scrutinized.”

They also all agreed that Police Chief Clarence Kelley professionalized the department, requiring officers to write reports about every incident, stopping the rotating shifts so police could pursue college degrees and even letting them wear short sleeves in the summer.

“There were so many changes at that time,” Aliff said.

All the men vowed to come back for their 75th KCPD reunion.

Officially Speaking ...

Awards

Special Unit Citation

Homeland Security/CSTAR Unit
North Patrol Division Watch II 410R
Sector

Meritorious Service Award

Detective Patricia Marnett

Medal of Valor

Officer Chad Pickens

Promotions

To Master Patrol Officer

Raymond Powell

To Assistant Supervisor

Barbara Banks

Retirements

Officer Robert Randolph
Computer Services Analyst Mujtaba
Khandwala
Detention Facility Officer
Christopher Wipperman

Whatever happened to: The 82nd Entrant Officer Class

When James Aliff, Matthew Jordan and Paul Martz attended the Kansas City Police Academy, it was in the basement of the 27th Street Police Station.

Their starting salary was the ominous figure of \$366.66 monthly, and they only got four days off a month. They had to rotate their shift every 28 days and wear long-sleeve shirts with ties and no air-conditioning year-round. But they stuck it out, and each retired with more than 25 years of service. On March 1, they celebrated the 50th anniversary of their start at KCPD by gathering for lunch at a bar-becue joint.

The three entered the Academy on March 1, 1961. Twenty-one young men started their class, 18 graduated, eight retired, and only four are still alive. The fourth, Robert Lewis, is at a long-term care facility in North Carolina.

"I thought, it's been 50 years, and there's only a few of us left," Aliff said about why he

organized the small reunion.

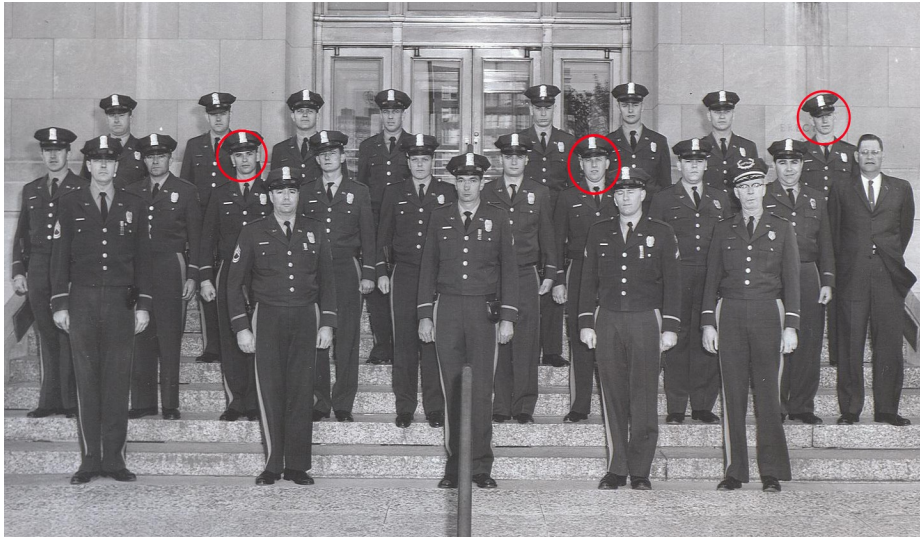
Aliff, a 75-year-old retired sergeant, and Jordan, a 71-year-old retired officer, still live in Kansas City, but Martz, a 71-year-old retired captain, has moved to the Lake of the Ozarks. They went on to various jobs after their KCPD retirement – Jordan became a Jackson County park ranger, Martz worked at Kansas City Power and Light, and Aliff worked in the insurance business and later for the Environ-

mental Protection Agency. But they said they'll never forget their time at KCPD or how much fun they had on the streets as patrol officers.

"You never knew what would happen every night," Aliff said.

Martz said he once was featured in *True Detective Magazine* for his response to a bank robbery at 75th and Troost. A lawyer went into a nearby barber-shop, told the people inside of his plans for robbery, then went to rob

— Continued on p. 3



Three of the last four remaining officers who served until retirement from the March 1961 entrant officer class celebrated their 50th anniversary. In the circles from left are Paul Martz, James Aliff and Matthew Jordan.

**Kansas City Missouri Police Department
1125 Locust
Kansas City, MO 64106**